

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The City of Marion is committed to adopting a proactive and strategic approach to planting and managing trees in parks, reserves and streets, with the aim to establish a strong, diverse and clearly defined tree character with quality, functional and sustainable trees that are appropriately managed.

This will be achieved through the implementation of Tree Character Plans and Tree Species Listings developed for 'Parks and Reserves' and 'Street Trees' and the adoption of proactive management principles and policies outlined in this Tree Management Policy.

The Tree Character Plans and Tree Species Listings aim to achieve quality, diverse, functional and sustainable trees in parks, reserves and streets across the city and also strengthen the city's pre-European landscape in parks and reserves. The management principles and policies will guide council in its future practices regarding the planting, replacing and managing of trees.

The ultimate aim of the Tree Management Policy is to strengthen the character, livability and biodiversity of the City of Marion through a strategic and proactive approach to tree planting and management across the city. The Tree Management Policy is closely linked to and should be implemented in conjunction with the City of Marion Tree Management Framework.

## **TREE CHARACTER PLANS**

The City of Marion will plan for and plant trees in accordance with the following conceptual plans and associated tree species listings:

- Parks and Reserves Tree Character Plan
- Street Trees Tree Character Plan
- Tree Species Listings for 'parks and reserves' and 'street trees'

The Tree Character Plans define the desired character and types of tree species that should be achieved over time across the city for 'parks and reserves' and 'street trees'. These plans consider the appropriate character, size, function, safety and biodiversity role of trees across geographical areas and suburbs.

The Tree Character Plans for 'parks and reserves' and 'street trees' differ due to the need for a different spread, height and character of trees in streets.

The Tree Character Plans are provided on the following pages and the Tree Species Listings are included in the Tree Management Framework. Photographs of the tree species suggested for each character area are provided in the Tree Management Framework document.

## **TREE MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

The following overriding principles, which aim to guide the planning, planting and management of trees in parks, reserves and streets in the City of Marion, will be adopted and promoted across the council. Specific directions that build on the principles are included in the Tree Management Framework.

### **A 'Green' City**

The City of Marion recognises the economic, social and environmental value of trees and is committed to maintaining and where appropriate increasing the number of trees across the City of Marion in parks, reserves and streets to 'green' the city, contribute to healthy lifestyles and strengthen habitat and biodiversity.

### **Pre European Landscape**

An emphasis will be placed on strengthening the city's pre European landscape in parks and reserves where this is consistent with the character and function of the park or reserve. This principle is reflected in the Parks and Reserves Tree Character Plan and the associated Tree Species Listing.

### **Tree Avenues**

The City of Marion will aim to establish avenues of quality street trees in most streets across the city, to enhance the appeal and amenity of the streets and neighbourhoods.

### **Climate Change Adaptability**

There will be a commitment to climate change adaptation through the use of drought tolerant and sturdy tree species and by adopting management practices that enhance tree sustainability, such as the use of mulch and climate sensitive watering.

### **Species Selection**

An emphasis will be placed on tree species within streets, precincts and suburbs that are consistent and relevant to the character and climate of the area concerned. This will involve using the Tree Character Plans and Tree Species Listings (in the Tree Management Framework) to guide the tree species selection. Photographs of suggested tree species are provided in the Tree Management Framework document.

### **Landscape Connections and Habitat**

Trees will play a key role in achieving landscape connections and habitat provision across the city through corridor, boulevard and avenue tree planting, and the use of plant species that provide habitat for local wildlife.

### **Biodiversity**

A commitment will be made to enhancing existing biodiversity sites and establishing new biodiversity sites through tree management and additional local provenance tree plantings.

### **Trees of Significance**

Significant trees will be appropriately managed in accordance with the requirements of the current Development Act and council's Development Plan. This will involve protecting and maintaining significant and regulated trees to the appropriate level.

### **Tree Audit Guide**

As part of a proactive and sound approach to planning for and managing trees, planting projects and management decisions will primarily be based on an 'audit of trees in parks and reserves' and an 'audit of street trees' (which council will undertake in the near future).

### **Tree Removal**

Trees in parks, reserves and streets will generally not be removed unless the tree is dead, badly diseased or dying (and cannot be revived to a sustainable condition), the tree species or location is inappropriate and/ or the tree is a risk to the public.

### **Tree Replacement**

Where there is justification to remove a tree, the tree will be replaced with at least one tree of similar or even more appropriate species using the relevant Tree Character Plan and Tree Species Listing as a guide.

### **Proactive Tree Maintenance**

A proactive approach to tree maintenance and pruning will be undertaken. This will include planting lower maintenance plant species where appropriate and undertaking regular pruning and maintenance. The pruning and maintenance priorities will be based on potential risks, the priority of the park, reserve or street, usage by and benefits to the community, and the significance, size and species of the tree.

### **Safety and CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design)**

The safety of people and workers will be of primary importance when locating, planting and managing trees. This will include ensuring infrastructure and activity spaces are appropriately located around existing trees.

### **Tree Vandalism**

The vandalism of trees will be deterred and appropriately disciplined to minimise the impacts on trees and residents. Potential approaches to managing and responding to tree vandalism are included in the Tree Management Framework.

### **Watering Trees**

Whilst the City of Marion is committed to managed water use and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), trees will be watered as required and in accordance with climatic conditions to minimise the stress on new and existing trees and as part of risk management and recognising the value of trees.

### **Managing Tree Impacts**

The potential impacts of trees and associated root systems on park and street infrastructure and utilities will be managed by appropriately locating trees and selecting tree species that are suitable for the site.

### **Tree Stock**

The City of Marion will maintain and expand its tree stock for planting projects (with a particular focus on appropriate tree species, drought tolerant trees and lower maintenance trees) through continued plant nursery activities and ongoing tree propagation.

### **Managing Trees on Private Land**

The management of trees on private land and potential impacts on neighbouring properties will be the responsibility of the land owner with information and guidance provided by council.

### **Trees and Residential Development**

Developers must manage potential impacts on street trees and in neighbouring parks and reserves, taking the Development Act 1993, council's Development Plan and the Tree Management Policy and Tree Management Framework into consideration.

### **Trees and Views**

Impacts on views will not justify the removal or substantial pruning of a tree. However, the planting of trees will be sensitive to the future impact on views in the first instance.

### **Trees and Utilities**

Utility providers will be responsible for ensuring the appropriate care of trees when undertaking pruning or works near tree root systems and should undertake works in consultation with council.

### **Involving the Community**

The City of Marion will appropriately inform and involve the community in tree management through community engagement and encouraging the community to be involved in planting and maintaining trees.

## **OTHER POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

Other specific policy considerations are provided below for 'trees in parks and reserves' and 'street trees'.

### **Trees in Parks and Reserves**

- Priority tree planting projects in parks and reserves will primarily focus on:
  - Reserve or playspace upgrade projects
  - Parks and reserves that lack trees and shade
  - Higher level parks and reserves (regional, precinct and neighbourhood)
  - Biodiversity and habitat projects
  
- The specific selection of tree species in parks and reserves from the Tree Species Listing will consider:
  - The appropriateness of the area's predominant pre-European tree species for the park or reserve
  - The species already planted in the park or reserve and whether the theme should be continued
  - The opportunities for climate change adaptation (e.g. drought tolerant species)
  - The ultimate height and spread of the species and the appropriateness to the site
  - The tolerance to climatic and soil conditions
  - Species form, colour and appropriateness to the site (including spatial considerations)
  - Potential service impacts (overhead power lines, irrigation, drainage and other utilities)
  - Potential benefits and impacts to park or reserve users (e.g. shade, connection to activity areas)

### **Street Trees**

- Priority street tree planting will primarily be based on:
  - Establishing tree avenues along primary and secondary travel routes
  - Opportunities to create and strengthen habitat corridors using streets as connectors
  - Addressing gaps and issues identified in the Street Tree Audit
  
- The specific selection of street tree species from the Tree Species Listing will consider:
  - The appropriateness of the species already planted in the street
  - The opportunities for climate change adaptation (e.g. drought tolerant species)
  - The capacity of the verge linked to the potential height and spread of the species
  - The tolerance to climatic and soil conditions
  - Species form, colour and appropriateness to the street and neighbourhood
  - Potential service impacts (overhead power lines, irrigation, drainage and other utilities)
  - Potential benefits and impacts to pedestrians and cyclists (e.g. shade, debris)

## **RELATED PLANS AND POLICIES**

The City of Marion Tree Management Policy is consistent with and reinforces the following plans and policies:

- The City of Marion Strategic Plan 2010-2020 and particularly:
  - A liveable city (CW2)
  - Preservation of our heritage, valuing the past and planning for the future (CV4)
  - Active response to climate change (HE1)
  - Enhanced landscapes, habitats and local biodiversity (HE3)
- The City of Marion Tree Management Framework which provides specific directions relating to the policies and principles in this Tree Management Policy. The Tree Management Framework is an extension of the Tree Management Policy and should be implemented concurrently with the Policy.
- The City of Marion Street Tree Descriptions document, which provides information on types of trees that are suitable for the City of Marion and has been drawn on to develop the Tree Character Plans and the Tree Species Listings.
- The Independent Inquiry into the Management of Trees on Public Land (2010) which has influenced the directions in the Tree Management Policy and Tree Management Framework.
- The Local Government Act 1993 and the Development Act 1993, which include legislative requirements relating to trees in public places.
- Other legislative acts relating to vegetation, conservation, utilities and heritage. The various Acts are listed in the City of Marion Tree Management Framework.
- And council's Development Plan.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Definitions of key terms used in the Tree Management Policy are provided below.

**Park and Reserve Trees:** Trees located within council owned or managed parks and reserves, including recreation parks, sporting grounds, natural areas, drainage areas and around community facilities.

**Street Trees:** Trees located on verges along major roads and other streets.

**Significant Trees:** Currently defined as any tree with a trunk circumference in excess of 2.0 meters or more, measured one meter above natural ground level or a total circumference of 2.0 meters or more where trees have multiple trunks and an average circumference of 625mm or more.

**Pre European Landscape:** The tree species and landscape character that prevailed prior to European settlement.

This policy supersedes the Replacement of Trees and Shrubs Policy and should be reviewed every five years in line with the review of the Tree Management Framework, as the broad principles and directions could change over time.